

Lancaster County - Substance Abuse Action Coalition  
Steering Committee – December 11, 1:30 p.m.  
501 S. 7<sup>th</sup> St. Family Services

Present were: Jerome Barry, Independence Center, Jay Conrad, Houses of Hope, Brittawni Olson, Drug Free Communities, Karen Heusel, Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs, Teri Effle, Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and Drugs, Sandy Morrissey, Region V, Otto Schultz, SAAC.

As the coalition matures it needs to become more formal in its structure. Who attends the meetings? Who has a voice? A vote? How do we define the Coalition's mission? What role does the Steering Committee play?

This meeting wrestled with the following questions and came to the following preliminary conclusions, to be discussed at our next meeting.

***1. What is the mission of the Substance Abuse Action Coalition?***

To improve the health of Lancaster County citizens by reducing misuse of ATOD, through increased collaboration among prevention, treatment and criminal justice agencies.

Our vision is a community free of substance abuse.

***2. How does the Steering Committee serve the mission? What are its purposes?***

1. To act as a forum for sharing information among members of the coalition:
2. To acquire and share a community-wide picture of substance abuse system gaps:
3. To identify and develop resources by encouraging collaboration among coalition members.
4. To coordinate cross-boundary issues and communication among criminal justice, prevention, and treatment entities:
5. To periodically review and update the County Substance Abuse Action Plan:
6. To ensure that the three teams (prevention, treatment, and criminal justice) carry out their role in the Substance Abuse Action Plan:
7. To inform and communicate with other community-wide health initiatives such as CSIP and Healthy People 2010.

***3. Who are the key entities the Steering Committee needs to accomplish its purposes?***

Are they people who represent community-wide services that have an impact on substance abuse issues? Are there other criteria that would qualify some entities? Would the Steering Committee have people solely from the administrative level while the teams would have both administrators as well as first line people?

Possibilities include:

- ❖ Two representatives from each of the three teams
- ❖ Police and Sheriff's Departments
- ❖ Health Department
- ❖ Elected Officials such as Mayor, Council Person, County Commissioner
- ❖ CSIP (Community Services Implementation Project) – Topher?
- ❖ Family Violence Council – Domestic Violence Coalition
- ❖ A Matter of Degree – Campus Community Coalition
- ❖ Region V
- ❖ Nebraska Health and Human Services
- ❖ Liquor Control Commission
- ❖ Probation – Adult and Juvenile
- ❖ Employers, LIBA, Chamber of Commerce, EAP's,
- ❖ Mothers Against Drunk Driving
- ❖ Faith Community
- ❖ Schools – LPS, Catholic, Protestant
- ❖ Representative of the local funders group
- ❖ Ethnic Organizations

**4. *Additional identity questions for the Committee.***

- ❖ What should the Steering Committee be called?
- ❖ What is an appropriate size for it?
- ❖ Should some people have a vote while others have a voice? Any citizen? Anybody in the field with something to say? Should we continue to decide things by consensus?
- ❖ Who should get minutes of meetings in addition to members?